

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
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DRAFTED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER/VRM  
APPROVED BY EUR/P:FJSEIDNER  
EUR/WE: E. ROWELL

-----110919 110555Z /11

R 102158Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STATE 006459

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, FR, IT, US

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WE GOVERNMENTS

THERE FOLLOWS PORTION OF TODAY'S NOON BRIEFING DEVOTED TO  
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.

QUOTE: Q: HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE ITALIAN  
POLITICAL SITUATION? DOES THIS GOVERNMENT HAVE ANY VIEWS  
ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME COMMUNISTS COMING INTO THE  
GOVERNMENT?

A: WELL, NO, NOT REALLY. OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF  
COMMUNISTS COMING INTO GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN STATED AND  
THERE IS REALLY NO CHANGE IN THOSE. WE HAVE SORT OF SET  
THEM FORTH AGAIN AND I HAVE BEEN HAPPILY PROVIDED WITH A  
REMINDER OF TWO PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS HERE, WHICH I  
DOUBT THAT YOU NEED.

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Q: DO YOU HAVE THE DATES ON THOSE SO WE COULD GO BACK TO  
THEM?

A: YES. LET ME JUST GIVE YOU A COUPLE HERE. THERE  
WAS HIS INTERVIEW OF APRIL 25TH, FRED EMERY LOCALLY OF THE  
LONDON TIMES, NOW IN LONDON. ALSO THERE WAS AN INTERVIEW

THAT HE GAVE ON JUNE 17TH, PAGE 5 ON THAT DAY. I AM NOT SURE WHAT PAGE OF THIS ONE WITH THE EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS ON APRIL 25TH.

Q: CAN YOU MAKE THOSE SECTIONS AVAILABLE?

A: YES, I WILL.

Q: BUT THE PRESIDENT'S PERFORMANCE IN FRANCE, DON'T YOU THINK IT CHANGED THE POLICY?

A: WHAT HE SAID THEN IS WE PREFER THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED CONTINUE -- I AM TALKING ABOUT APRIL 25TH -- CONTINUE TO BE DEMOCRATIC AND THAT NO TOTALITARIAN ELEMENTS BECOME EITHER INFLUENTIAL OR DOMINANT AND I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES WOULD PREVAIL DURING THE COMING YEARS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL AUTHORITY.

Q: WELL, I MEANT MORE THAN A HANDS OFF APPROACH. LAST SPRING THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH SOME EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS AND BESIDES PREFERENCES WHICH ALL ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE HAD, THAT THERE BE NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN WESTERN EUROPE, IT WOULD SEEM TO BE DIFFERENT AND A MARKED DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AS THOUGH WE WERE GOING TO KEEP UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR HANDS OFF, YOU KNOW, IN A STRICT SENSE. THEN THE PRESIDENT GOES TO FRANCE AND THEN LECTURES THE SOCIALISTS ABOUT THE PERILS OF DEALING WITH THE COMMUNISTS.

I DON'T WANT TO MAKE A SPEECH, BUT HAS OUR POLICY CHANGED? DO THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS IN FRANCE SIGNAL A CHANGE IN POLICY, A RETURN TO THE KISSINGER APPROACH, OR DO WE REMAIN QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION?

A: I GUESS, TO USE YOUR OWN WORDS, OUR HANDS ARE STILL OFF. OUR RHETORIC IS UNCHANGED.

Q: HODDING, YOU ONCE READ HERE A LONG STATEMENT ON THAT POLICY.

A: YES.

Q: IS THAT STILL TRUE?

A: YES.

Q: DO YOU REMEMBER THE DATE OF THAT?

A: YES. I KNOW THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT IT WHEN WE WERE

COMING IN FROM ONE OF OUR VOYAGES SOMEWHERE AND THEN WE  
FINALLY ISSUED IT. I DON'T RECALL THE EXACT DATE.

Q: WHY IS AMBASSADOR GARDNER COMING TO WASHINGTON? DOES  
THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THIS SITUATION IN ITALY?

A: ON THAT HE IS HERE, HE WILL BE HERE FOR CONSULTATIONS --  
WHAT IS TODAY, THE 10TH? HE WILL BE HERE TOMORROW THROUGH  
THE 13TH. I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER AS TO THE  
WHOLE NATURE OF THE CONSULTATIONS.

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Q: HODDING, WOULD YOU SAY IT IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE  
PRESENT SITUATION IN ITALY?

A: I REALLY DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THAT FROM THIS  
PODIUM.

Q: HODDING, ON THAT POINT, I RECOGNIZE THAT YOU PREFER  
NOT TO COMMENT, BUT THESE REPORTS OUT OF ITALY, OF COURSE,  
SAY SPECIFICALLY THAT THAT IS WHY AMBASSADOR GARDNER HAS  
BEEN RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS OR AS A RESULT OF AMERICAN  
CONCERN THAT THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT  
THERE WHICH WILL BRING THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT.

I RECOGNIZE PERHAPS YOU INTENTIONALLY LEFT THE RECORD A  
BIT CLOUDED HERE AS TO WHAT THE U.S. HANDS OFF POSITION  
REPRESENTS IN TERMS OF WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS GOING  
TO REGISTER CONCERN ABOUT A CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT OF  
ITALY. COULD YOU CLARIFY THAT?

A: LET ME SAY, MURREY, THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT A  
GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND WE ARE WATCHING POLITICAL DEVELOP-  
MENTS IN ITALY. I MEAN THAT I THINK WOULD BE A GIVEN  
AND I DON'T WANT TO AVOID AT LEAST GIVING YOU THE GIVEN.  
BUT I AM NOT SURE WHERE WE GO AFTER THAT.

Q: CRISIS GOES TO STABILITY. IS THE UNITED STATES  
GOVERNMENT CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF LARGER  
COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, FOR  
INSTANCE?

A: OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION BY  
ITALIAN COMMUNISTS AND OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WESTERN  
EUROPE IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES, IT IS  
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WELL KNOWN. WE HAVE STATED THEM OFTEN. I HAVE RESTATED  
THEM, IN EFFECT, JUST NOW. OUR PREFERENCE IS VERY CLEAR.  
WE WOULD PREFER THAT THEY NOT PARTICIPATE. END QUOTE VANCE

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